

**Qualitative Methods  
and also  
Qualitative Methods in Latin American Studies  
LAS 6938; LAS 4935; POS 4931**

Please note that this course has multiple sections. You can take it through the Department of Political Science and through the Center for Latin American Studies. You can take it as a graduate student and as an undergraduate student. You are responsible for registering under the section that meets your graduation requirements.

Professor Anderson

Meeting times: Tues Periods 5-6 or 11:45-1:40 The Tuesday class will meet F2F and on zoom except for day 1 in MAT 0051  
and Thursday Period 6 or 12:50-1:40

Office hours: I am tentatively scheduling office hours for Tuesday and Thursday mornings BEFORE CLASS from 8-9:30 via zoom beginning next week.

### **Purpose of the Course**

This is a cross-over seminar in qualitative research methods. It was originally designed for undergraduates but many Masters level and doctoral students have wanted to take the class as well. As a result we are very happy to welcome graduate students as well. The format has worked well for the past several years so don't worry about the cross-over format. We will learn to use three methods of collecting qualitative data: in-depth interviews, participant observation and focus groups. The reading (7 books in all) is a combination of works on the research methods themselves and other books that exemplify the use of these methods. For those interested in Latin America, the course will help prepare you for doing field research there. For those doing graduate work, you can register for the course as a graduate seminar and do additional work. For undergraduates, this is a chance to learn what doing research looks like and at least one undergraduate student got a summer job doing research based on having taken this course!

### **Requirements**

You are expected to do all of the required reading and attend class. You will also do two research assignments, one solo and one in a group. Your group research assignment will be a focus group. The bulk of the work in this class is not in the reading but in the research assignments. You will have some latitude in how much you put into the research. The more you put into the research, the better you will do and the more you will learn. If the class is progressing well and students need a research day for travel, a focus group or extensive interviews we can accommodate those needs by cancelling class for a day between early October and mid November.

## **Grading:**

60% of your grade is based upon your research assignments, upon class attendance, and upon participation. You will have only one exam, a final exam, which is worth 40% of your grade.

## **books**

These books are available for purchase at local book stores and are on reserve at the main library. You can also buy them online.

Flick, Uwe, *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*

Rubin, Herbert and Rubin, Irene, *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data* 3rd edition

Gerring, John, *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*

Monroe, Kristen, *The Hand of Compassion*

Anderson, Leslie, *The Political Ecology of the Modern Peasant*

Press, Andrea and Cole, Elizabeth, *Speaking of Abortion*

Tsing, Anna, *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen*

## **Class date**

January 12

## **Reading**

first class: pass out syllabus

## **Part I: In-depth Interviews**

January 14

Rubin and Rubin, Chaps 1, 2, 3

(In these early weeks, start thinking about your group and solo projects. Start planning. Start working together.)

January 21-28

Monroe, entire book

February 2-4

Rubin and Rubin, Chaps 4 and 5

February 8-11

Anderson, entire book,

## **Part II: Participant Observation**

February 15-18

Rubin and Rubin, Chap 8

February 22-25

Flick, Chap 12, 13; Tsing, entire book

March 2-4

Research Week - no class Work on Group Project

(If you need to travel for your project, this is the week to do that. If you are holding a focus group or groups, set it/them up for this week. etc.)

## **Part III: Focus Groups**

March 9-18

Flick, Chap 10; Press and Cole, entire book  
continue Press and Cole

March 23-26

present research or work on group projects

## **Part IV: Individual Projects**

March 30-April 8

Individual project discussion and presentation

**Part II: Assessing Qualitative Research**

April 13

Gerring, Chaps 1, 2, 7; Flick Chaps 20 and 22  
discuss final projects, overview of research methods

April 15

Final paper